



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Senate Bill 121

Senate Amendment 1

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Under current law, the University of Wisconsin (UW) Board of Regents consists of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the president or another member of the Technical College System Board, 14 citizens appointed by the Governor, and a UW student who is at least 18 years old. The student member, also appointed by the Governor, may be selected from recommendations made by elected representatives of student governments at UW institutions.

The 14 citizen members of the Board of Regents serve staggered seven-year terms. The student member serves a two-year term. The student member must be a Wisconsin resident, enrolled at the UW at least half-time, and in good academic standing. The Governor may not appoint a student member from the same institution for any two consecutive terms.

Senate Bill 121 adds another UW student to the Board of Regents. The bill states that this student member must be an undergraduate, at least 24 years old, who represents the views of nontraditional students, such as those who are employed or who are parents.

Senate Bill 121 designates the student member appointed under current law as the “traditional” student member, and changes current law to specify that the traditional student member must be chosen by the Governor from recommendations made by a committee consisting of elected representatives of student governments at all UW institutions. The bill specifies that the committee must interview all students it selects and submit the names of three students to the Governor for his or her consideration.

Senate Amendment 1 specifies that:

- Two students from the same UW institution may not serve on the Board of Regents at the same time.

- A student from UW-Madison and a student from UW-Milwaukee may not serve on the Board of Regents at the same time.
- The two-year terms of the student members of the Board of Regents must be staggered: one member's term expires on May 1 of every even-numbered year; the other expires on May 1 of every odd-numbered year.

Senate Bill 121 was introduced on March 13, 2005 by Senator Harsdorf and others, cosponsored by Representative Lamb and others and referred to the Senate Committee on Higher Education and Tourism. A public hearing was held on the bill on April 6, 2005. Senate Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Harsdorf on April 8, 2005. The committee adopted Senate Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0; The committee recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0 on April 28, 2005.

Senate Bill 121 is a companion bill to Assembly Bill 158.

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